GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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Note to Teachers—Attention is called to the fact that each of the five Bulletins is always printed on a single page so that readers who wish to file the Bulletins for future use need only detach the pages.

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HOLLAND STILL USES DOGS FOR DRAFT ANIMALS

(See Bulletin No. 5)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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The French Midi Cleans Up After a Devastating Flood

SOUTHERN France is scraping off the mud, restoring the vineyards, and repairing broken bridges, after one of the worst floods that has hit the region in a century.

Mr. and Mrs. Melville Chater, Americans who made a leisurely canoe journey through this district by way of the Latéral and Midi canals, described its special beauty in a communication to the National Geographic Society. Moissac, where 150 lives were lost when a dike collapsed, they found to be a "rustic townlet" with church cloisters as fine as any in France.

"We came to Moissac," writes Mr. Chater, "through a pretty countryside of haymaking scenes and red-roofed farmhouses. Here the sinuous canal hardly permitted even a canoe to squeeze between the monster barges pyramided with wine tuns for Bordeaux, the western Midi's wine center.

How the Midi Gets Its Name

"Long before we gained the Canal du Midi at Toulouse we had learned how vividly the French for 'midday' describes Pyrenean France. One's abiding recollections of the Midi are of the midday—withering heat, whitish, fast-shuttered houses, whitish roads, dust-blanched fields and foliage—all under a cloudless, turquoise sky.

"The Canal du Midi is not only an important commerce carrier; it is among the most beautiful of French waterways. The Midi Canal's picturesque character is due to the magnificent trees which line its banks for more than 100 miles. Here are venerable oak glades, there alleys of plane trees, and yonder spear-straight pines or somber walls of cypress. Often, indeed, ranks of these different species parallel each other in a multiplied depth of sylvan shelter.

"In the neat, measured-out countryside through which we were passing, the day's work began at gray 5 o'clock. Then the first barge begins to move, old crones marshal regiments of geese, and snow-white oxen drink at the canal side. At sweltering noon the clatter of the American baling machine ceases, men put cabbage leaves in their hats, and the oxen stand flank-deep in the backwater. Such a mild-eyed dignity as theirs was worthy of Greek garlands and festal processions.

Shopkeepers and Fishermen Become Grape Pickers

"Field work and locking through continue until 8 o'clock. Then there is an hour of mandolin tinkling. And so to bed. Such is life in the back-doors country.

"From Carcassonne to Béziers the scene resembled one continuous vineyard 60 miles long. For us, thus far, it had remained unpeopled. But promptly at 5 a.m., on September 15, we were awakened by the laughter of peasants bearing reaping hooks and buckets, as they filed along the towpath.

"Ahead marched monsieur the proprietor, leading a village's entire population into the fields. And they laughed and joked, these youths and maidens, these old folks and their little grandchildren, because *la vendange,* the long-awaited, all-important grape harvest, had begun.

"From now onward hayfields, cattle, and even the 'canal patrol' of geese vanished from a scene which, for a month of unbroken working days, sometimes

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A FIELD OF DOUBLE TULIPS ON A DUTCH BULB FARM (See Bulletin No. 1)

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Millions of Chinese Never Eat Rice

WILL the Chinese eat American wheat?

That question has been revived by the renewal of the proposal to buy quantities of American wheat and send it to starving Chinese.

Irrespective of the merits of this relief measure, the popular idea that every Chinese has a bowl of rice in hand three or more times a day is false.

About 150,000,000 Chinese, it is estimated, live chiefly on wheat. That is, there are more Chinese who lean on wheat as the staff of life than there are Americans who eat bread.

Nanking Area Raises Two Wheat Crops Annually

No accurate statistics of China's grain production ever have been gathered. The United States Department of Commerce estimates that the annual wheat production of China lies somewhere between 200,000,000 and 600,000,000 bushels. Wheat is grown in practically all the provinces from the southern to the northern borders. But the northern provinces are China's true wheat belts. Manchuria is in the same latitude as Minnesota, but wheat ripens weeks earlier than in the Red River Valley. Harbin is already a milling center, the Minneapolis of China.

China already uses considerable quantities of American wheat, mostly as flour, since her people do not yet grow enough to supply their own needs. During 1929 the United States shipped to China 2,901,989 barrels of wheat flour valued at $15,340,000. Last year was a record year for flour exports to China. During 1928 the United States sent only 1,955,297 barrels valued at $10,567,000.

Shensi and Kansu, provinces most affected by famine, are in north China, the region best adapted to wheat raising. Szechwan Province on the Tibet border reports an average of 25 to 30 bushels per acre. In the Nanking region two crops of wheat are raised annually with an estimated production of 66,600,000 bushels. Shantung, famous for its rice, also raises 47,000,000 bushels of wheat per year.

Manchuria Is China's Minnesota

But it is Manchuria that has the brightest wheat future. Chinese are moving north into the unbroken plains of Manchuria like American pioneers moved into the Middle West one hundred years ago. Twenty million Chinese have gone into Manchuria in twenty years. It is one of the major migrations in the history of the world. Yet half of the arable land is still vacant.

Soy beans, which are used for soy and Worcestershire sauce, come first in importance, then wheat. With larger farms to work, the new farmers of Manchuria are beginning to find use for American farm machinery—tractors, harrows, plows and trucks.

Many Chinese students in American universities return to teach school, practice medicine or some profession. One young man has broken from this tradition. After graduation in America he took up a 7,000-acre farm in Manchuria. He is reported doing very well with his big farm run by modern methods. Like the pioneers of the American Middle West, he has been compelled to organize a private militia or vigilante band to protect his property from bandits.

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seventeen hours long, was exclusively one of grape gathering. Shopkeepers and even fishermen dropped their occupations for the harvest, and our line of supplies became threatened by this big reaping-hook offensive. One man thus met our supplication for some vegetables: 'Oh, there's nothing of that sort around here. One can't afford to raise anything but grapes, to the last square meter.'

The Home of d'Artagnan and Cyrano de Bergerac

"Finally our trip came to an end at Cette on the Mediterranean, where hotel-fringed quays and busy ship basins lent a Venetian air to the scene. It was evening, and we watched the sun sink over the Midi.

"The Midi! It is France's sunburned southland whose fires coursed in the veins of Bernard de Panassac, highwayman and troubadour; of dare-devil d'Artagnan; of Cyrano de Bergerac, duelist-poet supreme; of dashing Richard Plantagenet, the most meridional of England's kings. It is France's music-loving, bullfighting southland, heady as its own wines, whose ragged revolutionaries marching into Paris first popularized the 'Marseillaise.'

"Quick loves, quick hates, quick laughter—of such is the Midi, the Land of the Midday Sun."

Bulletin No. 1, March 31, 1930.

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NATIVES OF THE MIDI OFFER GRAPES TO THE CANOEIST

When Mr. and Mrs. Chater were traveling by canoe along the Latéral and Midi canals, the grape harvest was about to begin. Everyone drops his tasks to pick the grapes from the spreading vineyards, just as in the South the whole population goes into the fields at cotton-picking time.

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American Engineers Help Build Dam at Historic Marathon

ONE hundred years ago Greece fought to free herself from Turkish rule.

One hundred years ago Lord Byron, the English poet, threw himself into this revolution for the rebirth of the Greek nation, and the gallant effort cost him his life.

The centennial of the Greek declaration of independence will be celebrated with festivals and speeches. Out on the hills above the Plain of Marathon (see illustration on following page) a lasting memorial is being created—a dam across the Charadra River to impound its waters for the use of Athens.

How the First Marathon Race Was Run

Over the route that Pheidippides ran 22 miles to bring good news of victory over the Persians, water will soon run in a conduit to refresh thirsty Athenians.

Pheidippides had won races at the Olympic games, so the city council called on him in that emergency, 2,420 years ago. A few days previous to the battle they asked him to run down to Sparta to persuade the Spartans to bring up reinforcements. When he returned the army had marched and was encamped on the heights above the Plain of Marathon, which is on the other side of the peninsula from Athens. So Pheidippides took up his heavy shield and spear and set out to join the troops.

When the Greek charge routed the Persian army, Pheidippides dropped his spear and shield and sprinted for Athens. Tradition says that he ran 22 miles from the battlefield only to fall exhausted, crying out before he died, "Rejoice, we conquer."

A Greek runner won the Marathon when that difficult race was revived at the first modern Olympic games held in Athens in 1896. The official distance has been increased from the 22 miles that Pheidippides ran to 26 miles 385 yards.

"The Mountains Look on Marathon"

The Battle of Marathon is often included among lists of great battles of the world, although some historians hold that the tactics of the Greeks were the result of happy accident rather than examples of superior military wisdom. Darius, King of Persia, had ordered his generals to enslave Athens and Eretria. Eretria fell, and the Persians drew their ships up on the sands at Marathon and disembarked cavalry and infantry.

The Athenians and their allies, meanwhile, had taken a position in the narrow passes of the highlands which form the backbone of the peninsula. In these passes the Persian cavalry was useless. Finally the Greeks, though fewer in numbers, boldly attacked in a running charge. The Persians repelled the center of the charging Greek line whose ends then swung in with crushing attacks on both flanks. The invaders fled to their boats and shoved off, although the Greeks succeeded in capturing seven ships.

Note: For further information and illustrations of Greece in connection with the centennial see "The Glory That Was Greece," *National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1923; "Seeing 3,000 Years of History in Four Hours," December, 1928; "History's Greatest Trek," November, 1925; and other articles listed in the Cumulative Index to the *National Geographic Magazine*.

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World wheat statistics generally exclude China and Russia from their estimates. China has never been an important factor either in import or export, and Russia has ceased to be the big wheat-exporting nation it was before the World War.

China Stands High among Wheat-Producing Nations

Stabilization in both countries would change the picture. The estimated Chinese production, 200,000,000 to 600,000,000 bushels, puts it well up among the wheat-growing nations. The United States in 1928 raised 902,000,000 bushels of wheat. Argentina, an important country in the world trade, raised 275,000,000 bushels.

The increasing amount of wheat flour being shipped to China, in face of apparent increased acreage, is believed to show a growing demand among the Chinese for bread.

Note: See also "Manchuria, Promised Land of Asia," *National Geographic Magazine*, October, 1929; "Farmers Since the Days of Noah," April, 1927; and "The Geography of China," June, 1927.

Bulletin No. 2, March 31, 1930.

© *Photograph by Charles H. Kragh*

COOKING BUNS AT THE FRONT OF A RESTAURANT IN SOOCHOW

The only difference between this Chinese restaurant and a certain type of American restaurant is that a man, not a girl, cooks the "cakes" and there is no glass window.

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Santo Domingo, the Land Columbus Liked Best

SANTO DOMINGO has recently changed its government officials by a bloodless revolution.

The change will probably not hinder materially the carrying out of recommendations made by a committee of American financial experts headed by former Vice-President Dawes, who last spring accepted an invitation to advise the islanders.

High Mountains Separate Two Nations of Island of Haiti

Prosperity seems to be returning to Santo Domingo after an absence of 400 years. Foreign trade more than doubled in twelve years and more than quadrupled in the last twenty years. Five times as many children are in school as there were ten years ago. The Dominican Republic is proud of its record—until it looks east to Porto Rico and southeast to Barbados. If the fertile valleys of Santo Domingo were as intensively populated as neighbor Porto Rico's acres, 7,000,000 inhabitants would swear allegiance to the Dominican flag; if as dense as Barbados' population, 21,000,000. Only a million Dominicans thrive on the tropical abundance of an area equal to Vermont and New Hampshire.

Two republics, the Dominican and the Haitian, divide the Island of Haiti. The Haitian Republic, occupying the western third of the island, is peopled almost entirely by descendants of slaves. They speak French. The Dominican Republic, often called Santo or San Domingo, after the name of its chief port and capital, occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island.

Two republics, two peoples, and two languages are possible because of the topography of the island. No less than five mountain ranges furrow the island. Nor are these toy mountains. Mount Tina in Santo Domingo is the highest peak in the West Indies, and its 10,300-foot elevation tops the highest point in the United States east of the Rockies with footage to spare. High ranges separate Haiti and Santo Domingo much as the Pyrenees barricade France from Spain.

Island Columbus Praised Soon Became Capital of Spain in America

Of all the lands he discovered, Columbus liked Espanola (Haiti) best. "In it there are many havens on the sea coast," he wrote his patron, "incomparable with any others I know in Christendom and plenty of rivers, so good and great that it is a marvel . . . the mountains, and hills, and plains, and fields, and the soil so beautiful and rich for planting and sowing, for breeding cattle of all sorts, for building towns and villages. There could be no believing, without seeing." Travelers of later times share Columbus' optimism and enthusiasm.

In response to the discoverer's last wishes his remains were brought to the New World for burial in his favorite isle.

Columbus discovered the island in December, 1492. Within forty years it ascended to the proud height of capital and focus of Spain's spreading empire in America—and descended. Cortez, Pizarro, and Ponce de Leon sailed, conquest bound, from the walled city of Santo Domingo.

Gold and silver collected in Santo Domingo, and awaiting shipment on the treasure fleet to Spain, lured to the "incomparable havens" of Columbus daring rascals who preyed upon the galleons. These pirates lived on dried or *buccaned* meat. The buccaneers of Espanola, first of their black order, terrorized the West Indies for a century.

The star of Spain's empire moved west, waning as it went; the million to three million Haitian Indians Columbus found were wiped out. A kindly people,

© Photograph from Alexander Wilbourne Weddell

THE PLAIN OF MARATHON, SCENE OF THE MIGHTY CONFLICT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

The water in the distance is the Gulf of Marathon. Beyond is the island of Euboea. To the extreme left, and in the soft curve of the shore, the Persian galleys were drawn up. Down the valley, from near where we stand, swept the Greeks. Toward the right, and a short distance from the shore, rises the mound under which lie buried Athenians who fell in the battle. Cypress trees in the foreground are characteristic of Greek landscapes.

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Tulips and Cheese for Which Holland Is Famous

SPRINGTIME is tulip time in Holland.

"Then the flat country near the city of Haarlem, lying a few miles west of Amsterdam," writes William W. Chapin in a communication to the National Geographic Society, "is for the time being the beauty spot of Holland.

"As far as the eye can reach, the country is carpeted with great patches of tulip, hyacinth, narcissus, and daffodil blossoms in masses of most brilliant colors.

"During the seventeenth century many of the staid, conservative Dutchmen lost their heads, as well as their fortunes, in a wild speculating craze in these innocent bulbs, which was so widespread and severe as to shake the entire nation. Bulbs were dealt in on the exchange in quantities impossible to furnish and in varieties which never existed.

The Costly Mistake of the Pasha's Cook

"The growth of bulbs is a very important industry to Holland, as from Haarlem many markets of the world obtain their supply.

"It is told of Said Pasha, who had a great love for flowers, that he placed an order in Holland for a very choice assortment of these bulbs, for which he paid $5,000. When the bulbs arrived his 'Secretary of the Interior,' who received them, not knowing of the bulb order, sidetracked them to the kitchen. Soon after their arrival the Pasha was to give an important banquet, and his chief cook, wishing to serve an especial treat, grilled the new variety of onions and served them hot. Evidently as an article of food they did not prove a success, since the only comment the recorder of the incident made of the result was that the Pasha's interest in gardening received a severe blow.

"The manufacture of cheese has also assumed such proportions that it may be regarded as a national industry.

When Alkmaar Weighs in Its Cannon Ball Cheeses

"It is estimated that there are 150 varieties of cheese made throughout the world. Each sort is said to bear an individual trait or flavor which is as distinct and peculiar to the land or district where it is produced as is the language. That there is foundation for this claim in the output of Dutch dairies is clearly demonstrated.

"No visitor should fail to visit Alkmaar on Friday, its market day. In the center of the town stands the old weigh-house, erected in 1582. Connected with the town clock in the tower of this building hangs one of those tinkling chimes which plays a melody even stranger than those heard in Amsterdam. It is in this building that all of the cheeses are brought from the square in front, to be officially weighed, before they are delivered to the purchaser and stowed away in the packets or barges waiting nearby in the canal.

"From this, the principal cheese market of Holland, thousands of tons of golden spheres change ownership each year. On approaching, one might easily imagine that preparations for a bombardment are being gotten rapidly under way, as the 9-inch cannon balls of bright yellow, tossed from hand to hand in rapid succession, are being piled in double tiers of about 10 or 12 feet square.

"So numerous are the strange dog-carts and scows with which the farmers bring their loads to town that the adjoining streets and canal are completely filled, and the noon hour has nearly arrived before the cheeses are transferred to the square, where it is necessary to place them in perfect order before the sale can begin.

they are now virtually extinct. The memorial headstones by which the world remembers them are a few of their words that have been preserved: potato, tobacco, cassava, canoe, hammock.

Slaves were introduced in 1505, Drake raided the walled capital in 1586, and the island fell into eclipse. By 1819 the population of Santo Domingo had been reduced, it is estimated, to 63,000!

The recent establishment of air service with Florida may serve to popularize features of Columbus' paradise that have escaped attention of tourists: the inland lakes, one 70 miles in circumference, more salty than the ocean, and a hundred feet below sea level; the dry desert of Azua; the tangled mahogany forests of the eastern provinces; La Vega Real, the Royal Plain of Columbus, as wide as the Shenandoah Valley and almost as long, home of spreading coffee, sugar, cacao and tobacco farms; and Samana Bay, so spacious and well protected that the United States once considered leasing it instead of Guantanamo Bay as a West Indies naval base.

An arterial highway system, begun while the island was under the administration of the United States from 1916 to 1924, connects the chief towns. One road runs from Port au Prince, Haiti, to Santo Domingo City.

Colony of Freed American Slaves Still Speaks English

Sugar is king in the Republic. England, Canada and Germany buy heavily of the crop, which ran to 412,000 tons in 1928. The country looks forward to the time when it can bring production abreast of Porto Rico, which, by area comparison, exports twenty times as much sugar. Cacao, the chocolate bean, comes next in line. Yucca and corn and cacao trees grow side by side in a triple agricultural system. Bananas, guavas and coffee trees also go hand in hand on the same acres.

In the Dominican Republic there is a bit of the United States of which few people know. A colony of American slaves emancipated by a Florida planter was established about 1830 in the Samana Peninsula. The colony has persisted and has grown in numbers.

Note: Colonel Charles Lindbergh visited Santo Domingo on his swing around the Caribbean and gave his impressions of the country in "To Bogota and Back by Air," *National Geographic Magazine*, May, 1928.

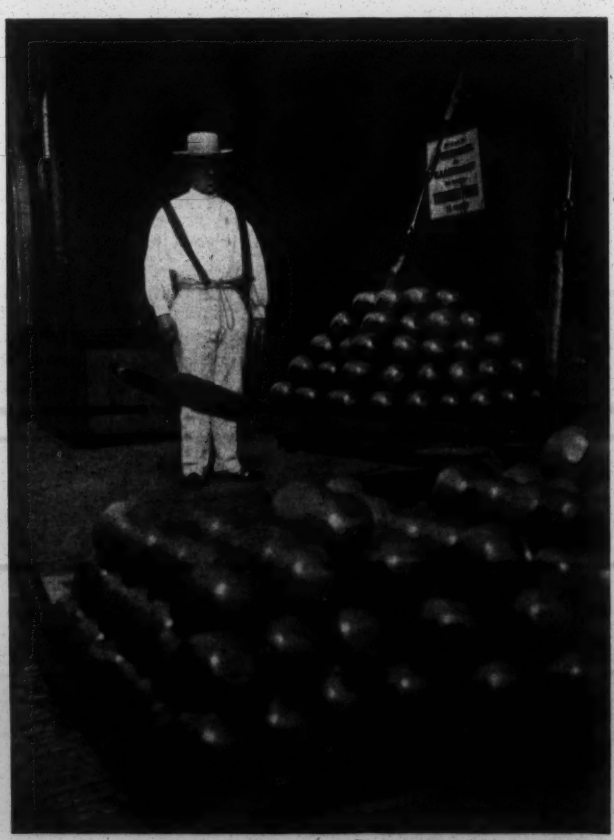
© Photograph by R. Colorado

SANTO DOMINGO GIRLS WORE AIRPLANE HATS TO WELCOME COL. LINDBERGH

"'However, when all is in readiness the sales proceed very rapidly, and on the close of a deal, which is confirmed by solemn and sometimes oft-repeated hand-shakings, porters appear, dressed in white linen and wearing straw hats with colored bands, carrying a long boat-like tray, with handles on either side, supported from the shoulders by straps. On these trays, piled in pyramidal form, rest from sixty to eighty 4-pound cheese balls. Two men carry each tray, raising the load just high enough to clear the ground, and swing it along to the scales in the weigh-house. Then they carry it to the canal boat, which will deliver the cargo to the warehouses, to be consigned to all parts of the world. These yellow cheeses have a world-wide reputation as a table delicacy, and while known as the Edam cheese, from the little town a few miles distant, comparatively few of the spheres are produced there.

"Another of the cheese-producing districts is Limburg, sometimes called the Garden of Holland, famous for Limburger cheese.

Note: For geography classes studying Holland in the spring months additional material and illustrations can be found in the *National Geographic Magazine*: September, 1929; March, 1925; March, 1923; June, 1916; and January, 1915.



© Photograph by Emil P. Albrecht

WEIGHING IN CHEESE AT ALKMAAR

The white-uniformed porters who carry the cheese from ship to market, from market to scales, and back to ship again, are elected to their positions for life.